

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Meng YAO

GROUP: 2625

APPLICATION: 09/888,668

EXAMINER: P. Huntsinger

FILED: June 25, 2001

CONFIRMATION: 8867

FOR: STOCHASTIC HALFTONE SCREENING METHOD

**Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450**

Sir:

INTERVIEW SUMMARY RECORD

On June 15, 2007, Examiner Huntsinger contacted the undersigned to discuss an amendment to independent claim 6 with respect to the switching to a white pixel in the screen before a 50% grey level. In response to this telephonic conversation, Examiner Huntsinger faxed, on June 15, 2007, a proposed Examiner's Amendment to independent claim 6 (see attached fax). On June 18, 2007, the undersigned telephoned Examiner Huntsinger to authorize the Examiner's Amendment to independent claim 6.

Since this Interview Summary Record is required as a result of a situation beyond the control of the Applicants, the filing of this Interview Summary Record should not negatively impact the Applicants' Patent Term Adjustment.

Respectfully submitted,



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MJN/mjn

Proposed Examiner's Amendment for claim 6

6. A method of generating a halftone screen for converting an image received at d levels, for reproduction at c levels, where $d > c$, the method, in optional sequence, including: generating a first initial stochastic screen pattern for a first gray level, the initial stochastic screen pattern being constrained by a checkerboard pattern such that a black pixel in the first initial checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern is positioned in the first initial checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern at a pixel position corresponding to a black pixel position in the checkerboard pattern; generating a plurality of subsequent first checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen patterns, each subsequent first checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern corresponding to a specific gray level that is darker than the first gray level and is lighter than a second gray level, the second gray level being darker than the first gray level, each subsequent first checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern maintaining an arrangement of black pixels of the first initial checkerboard pattern constrained checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, pattern each subsequent first including a number of additional black pixels such that a total number of black pixels in a subsequent first checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern is greater than a number of black pixels in the initial checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, each additional black pixel in the subsequent first checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen patterns being positioned in the subsequent first checkerboard pattern

constrained stochastic screen pattern at a pixel position corresponding to a black pixel position in the checkerboard pattern; generating a second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern-corresponding to the second gray level, the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern maintaining the arrangement of black pixels of the first initial checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern including a number of additional black pixels such that a total number of black pixels in the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern is greater than a number of black pixels in the initial checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, each additional black pixel in the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen patterns being positioned in the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern at a pixel position corresponding to a black pixel position in the checkerboard pattern; and generating a plurality of subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen patterns, each subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern corresponding to a specific gray level that is darker than the second gray level and is lighter than a third gray level, the third gray level being darker than the second gray level, each subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern maintaining an arrangement of black pixels of the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, each subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic

screen pattern including a number of additional black pixels such that a total number of blacks in a subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern is greater than a number of black pixels in the second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen pattern, each additional black pixel in the subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen patterns being positioned in the subsequent second checkerboard pattern constrained stochastic screen patterns at a pixel position corresponding to a white pixel position in the checkerboard pattern, the third gray level corresponding to a black dither of 50% or less for gray levels q_s wherein $x < q_s < y$, x corresponding to 100% black, y corresponding to 0% black.